

# EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

## Laboratories

[www.colorado.gov/ebola](http://www.colorado.gov/ebola)

### Ebola Virus Disease (EVD): Synthesis of CDC Guidance for Laboratories

*This is a rapidly evolving situation. We anticipate that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will continue to update their Ebola guidance. Please see the CDC website for the most current recommendations: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>*

#### Information and contacts

All suspect cases should be immediately reported to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) at 303-692-2700 (evenings and weekends: 303-370-9395). Persons who have had contact with someone with Ebola, even if no symptoms, should also be reported. CDPHE will coordinate communication with CDC.

#### Background

Ebola virus is spread person-to-person through direct contact with bodily fluids (such as blood, vomit, diarrhea, urine, sweat, semen, saliva, and breast milk). The incubation period is usually 8-10 days (range 2-21 days). Patients can transmit the virus while febrile and through later stages of disease, as well as postmortem. Patients are not contagious until symptomatic.

- Information on the [Ebola outbreak in West Africa](#).
- Ebola [case definition](#).
- Specific [information for clinicians](#) on clinical presentation, clinical course, pathogenesis, and laboratory findings.

#### Laboratory Specimen Guidance

All suspect cases of Ebola should be immediately reported to CDPHE for evaluation and/or approval for diagnostic testing. Contact CDPHE at 303-692-2700 (evenings and weekends: 303-370-9395). Persons who have had contact with someone with Ebola, even if no symptoms, should also be reported. CDPHE will coordinate communication with the CDC. CDC will not accept specimens without consultation.

U.S. clinical laboratories can safely handle specimens from suspect patients with EVD by taking all required precautions and practices in the laboratory, specifically designed for pathogens spread in the blood.

Please see the most up-to-date CDC guidance:

- How [laboratories](#) can safely manage specimens from persons under investigation for Ebola.
- [Specimen collection, transport, testing, and submission](#).
- [Diagnostic](#) assays and appropriate timing.
- Interim guidance for specimen collection, transport, testing, and submission ([poster](#)).
- Interim guidance regarding compliance with [select agent regulations](#) for laboratories handling patient specimens that are known or suspected to contain Ebola virus.
- Guidance on [personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) for healthcare workers.
- [CDC Training video](#) for donning and doffing PPE.
- [Medscape video](#) for donning and doffing PPE.
- Ebola PPE donning and doffing [checklists](#) (N95 and PAPR options) for hospital health care workers.
- [Infection prevention and control](#) recommendations of hospitalized patients with known or suspected Ebola virus disease.
- [Safe management of patients with Ebola](#) in U.S. hospitals.
- [Environmental infection control](#) in hospitals.

- [Ebola-associated waste management.](#)
- Review of [human-to-human transmission of Ebola virus.](#)
- EPA [list](#) of disinfectants for use against Ebola.
- Guidance for clinical labs using [FDA authorized diagnostic assays for Ebola virus detection](#) (Association of Public Health Laboratories).
- Guidance for [malaria](#) diagnosis in patients suspected of Ebola infections in the U.S.

#### [Ebola Waste Management and Transportation](#)

- [Ebola-associated waste management.](#)
- [Ebola waste management guidance](#) (CDPHE).
- Guidance for [wastewater collection and treatment.](#)
- Department of Transportation (DOT) guidance for [preparing packages of Ebola contaminated waste for transportation and disposal.](#)
- DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) [guidance for transporting Ebola contaminated items.](#)
  - [Emergency special permit.](#)
- DOT PHMSA [packaging and handling Ebola virus contaminated infectious waste for transportation to disposal sites.](#)
- DOT PHMSA [transporting infectious substances safely.](#)

#### [Additional Resources/Infographics:](#)

- [Ebola factsheet.](#)
- [What you need to know about Ebola.](#)
- [Facts about Ebola in the U.S.](#)
  - [Spanish version.](#)
- [Questions & Answers about Ebola.](#)
- [Is it Flu or Ebola?](#)
- [How Ebola spreads.](#)
- [West Africa Ebola outbreak.](#)
- [Stopping the Ebola outbreak.](#)
- [Ebola and pets.](#)
- [What is CDC doing?](#)
- [Top 10 things you really need to know about Ebola.](#)